【真月譚】

月姫

10

TSUKIHIME

BLUE BLUE GLASS MOON

UNDER THE CRIMSON AIR.

作画
佐々木少年

原作
TYPE-MOON／「真月譚 月姫」製作委員会

真月譚 月姫

TSUKIHIME

———EVER AFTER.

SUDDENLY,
I OPEN MY
EYES.

A VAST NIGHT SKY.

IN THE MIDST OF A GRASSY FIELD THAT EXTENDS AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE, I STARE BLANKLY AT THE MOON.
THERE IS NO ONE ELSE HERE.
NO SIGNS OF HUMAN PRESENCE; NO SOUNDS FROM ANY ANIMALS.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'VE PUSHED MYSELF TOO HARD THESE PAST FEW COUPLE OF DAYS.
I JUST WANTED TO LIE DOWN QUICKLY AND BE ALONE,
BUT IT SEEMS I FELL ASLEEP.

IT WAS A BRIGHT DARKNESS.
PROBABLY BECAUSE THE MOON IS HANGING SO LOW.
THE GRASSY FIELD THAT LOOKED LIKE A BLACK SEA LAST NIGHT IS BRIGHT, LIKE SOME SORT OF A STAGE.
A CLEARING ILLUMINATED BY SHARP, SHARP MOONLIGHT.

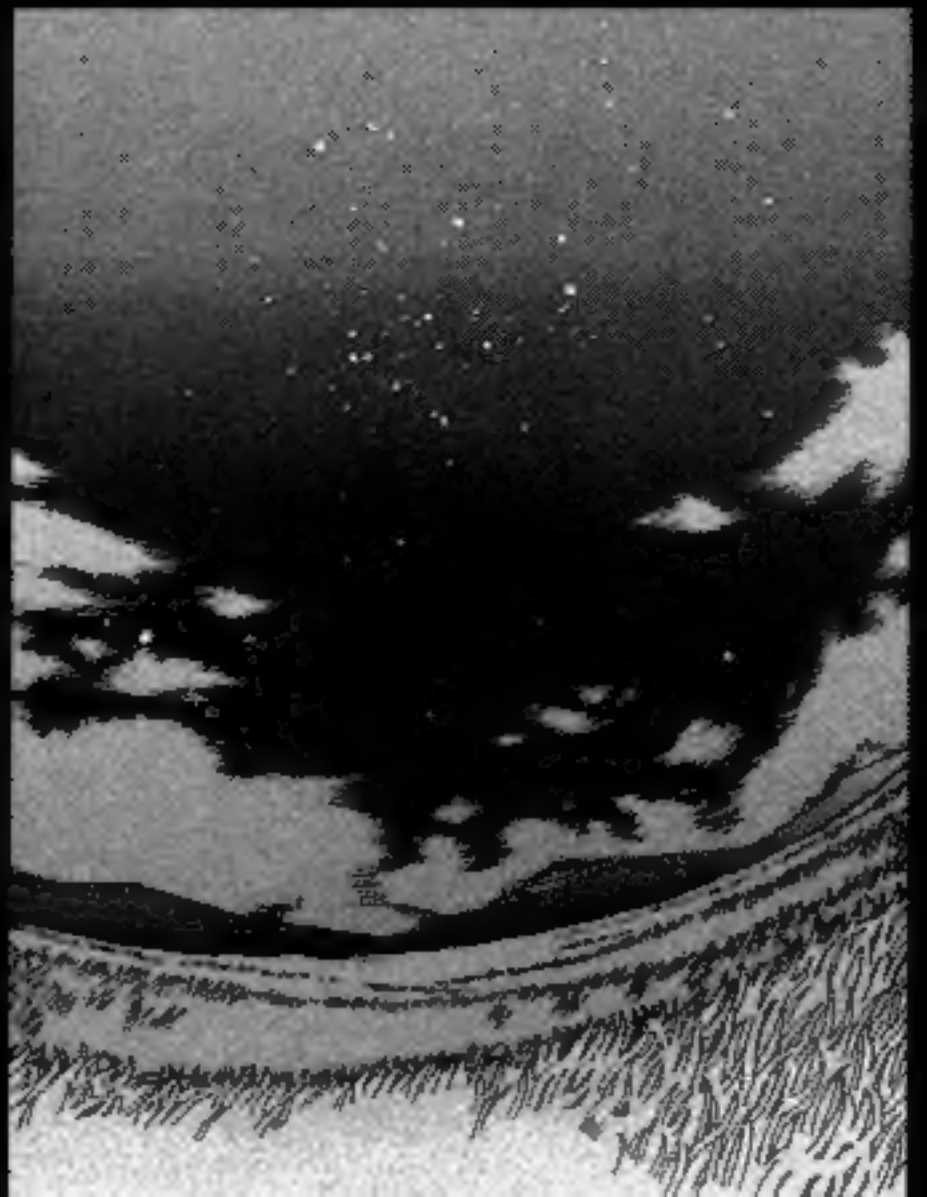
I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST LIKE A THEATER SOMEWHERE.

ONLY, THERE ARE NO CURTAINS AROUND.

THIS FIELD OF GRASS THAT SWEEPS FAR AND WIDE IS DEVOID OF ANY CURTAINS LIKE TREES, NOR IS THERE THE EXISTENCE OF AN AUDIENCE OR A STAGE CREW.

THERE'S ONLY THE THE MOONLIGHT AND THE WHITE DARKNESS.
THE WIND DOES NOT BLOW
AND THE GRASS DOES NOT EVEN SWAY.

——— HOW QUIET.



I LAUGH QUIETLY AS IT FEELS LIKE ALL THE COMMOTION UNTIL YESTERDAY WAS JUST A JOKE.

NO, IF YOU TALK ABOUT JOKES,
THEN MY LIFE UNTIL NOW WAS SO HAPPY THAT, LOOKING BACK AT IT, IT SEEMS LIKE IT WAS JUST AN ILLUSION.

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED.

THERE WERE A LOT OF AMAZING THINGS THAT OCCURRED, AND THINKING BACK NOW, THESE WERE REALLY THE MOST DANGEROUS MOMENTS OF MY LIFE.

SOME THINGS IN THIS WORLD HAPPEN BECAUSE THEY WERE MEANT TO BE, WHILE OTHER THINGS IN THIS WORLD HAPPEN EVEN IF THEY WEREN'T. EVERYTHING FEELS LIKE AN ILLUSION, A FLEETING DREAM.

LOOKING BACK, IT SEEMS THAT NO MATTER HOW TRIVIAL THINGS SEEMED, ALL THOSE COINCIDENCES BUILT ON EACH OTHER.
THE DAYS WERE ONLY A REPETITION OF EACH OTHER, BUT NO TWO DAYS WERE QUITE THE SAME.

THEN, THAT MEANS...
PERHAPS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM WAS AN IRREPLEACABLE MOMENT THAT I CAN NEVER RETURN TO.

I RECALL MANY THINGS THAT HAPPENED. THE MEMORIES ARE SO NOSTALGIC THAT THEY MAKES ME SMILE.
JUST THE THOUGHT OF ALL THE NEW EXPERIENCES AWAITING ME IN THE FUTURE, DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF MY PAST, MAKES ME DIZZY.

HAPPINESS, EXCITEMENT, AND ENOUGH WORRIES TO GIVE ME A HEADACHE, IT'S TRULY A MIX OF EMOTIONS.

CARRIED AWAY BY THE MOMENT, MY HEART BEATS LOUDLY ONCE.

WHAT COMES AFTER IS MY USUAL ANEMIA.
THE DIZZINESS CONTINUES FOR A WHILE, BUT IT EVENTUALLY DISAPPEARS.

EVEN THOUGH THE WOUND ON MY CHEST HEALED, MY ANEMIA DIDN'T GO AWAY.

IT SEEMS LIKE THAT ALONE
WASN'T THE CAUSE FOR MY FRAGILE HEALTH.

...WELL, OF COURSE.

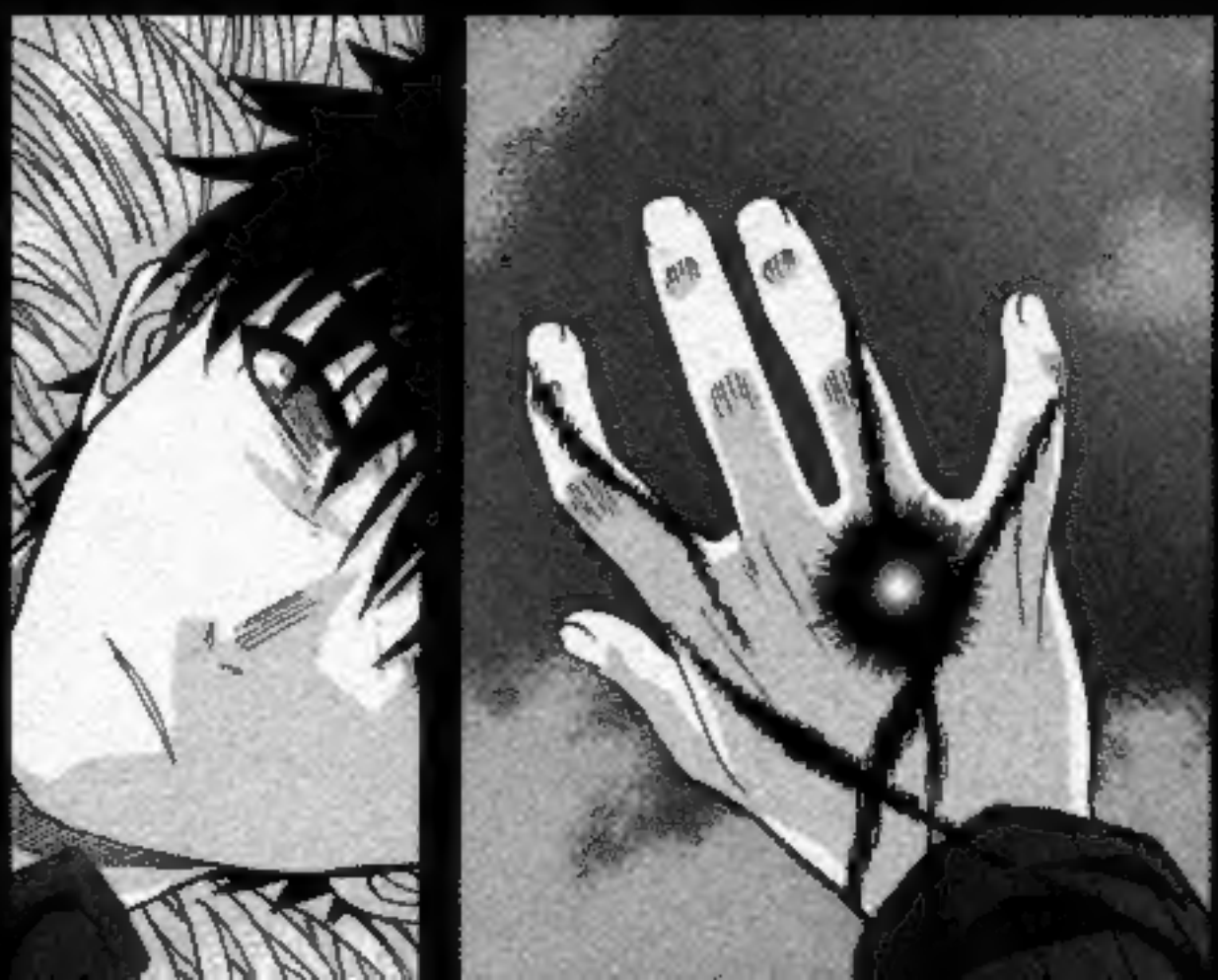
IT'S BECAUSE I AM ABLE TO PERCEIVE THE SHAPE OF DEATH,
THAT I PROBABLY STAND MUCH CLOSER TO IT THAN ANYONE ELSE.

TRUTH TO BE TOLD, I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT LIVING A LONG LIFE EITHER, UNLIKE ORDINARY PEOPLE.

THUMP, THE SOUND OF MY OWN HEART BEATING.

IT'S NOT LIKE ME TO THINK THIS WAY, BUT I DO WONDER JUST HOW LONG I CAN KEEP ON RUNNING THROUGH TIME LIKE THIS.

THE CONCLUSION IS RATHER UNINTERESTING.



BECAUSE, EVEN IF IT STOPS TOMORROW, OR IN A FEW DECADES

STILL——

OI, I'M SAYING THAT IT'S DANGER-OUS FOR YOU, JUST LYING AROUND LIKE THAT.

HEY……

YOU HAVE AN AWFUL LOT OF FREE TIME ON YOUR HANDS, IF YOU CAN JUST SLEEP AROUND HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

I WAS THIS CLOSE TO KICKING YOU AND SENDING YOU FLYING, SO YOU BETTER WATCH YOURSELF OUT.

HEH HEH

BE KICKED AND SENT FLYING? AND BY WHO?

YOU AND I ARE THE ONLY ONES HERE, SO WHO ELSE DO YOU THINK THAT IT COULD IT BE, OTHER THAN ME?

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS, STUPID? DO YOU EVEN NEED TO THINK ABOUT THE ANSWER TO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

HA……

I DIDN'T THINK THAT TODAY WOULD BE THAT DAY.

EVEN THOUGH I SOMEHOW FELT THAT I'D BE MEETING YOU,

I CAN'T BE-LIEVE IT

SO I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS OUR FATE THIS TIME NOT TO MEET,

BUT, OH WELL —

DESPITE HAVING HEARD THAT YOU WERE HERE, WE NEVER ENDED UP MEETING EACH OTHER, DID WE?

WHAT A COINCIDENCE I DIDN'T EXPECT TO BUMP INTO YOU IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, EITHER.

I AM A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION, AFTER ALL. WE'RE NOT QUITE ON GOOD TERMS WITH THE CHURCH, NOW.

YEP

COMING TO LOOK FOR ME BEFORE, WAS IT BECAUSE OF THAT WHOLE THING?

SO I STOPPED BY HERE FOR A FINAL CHECK, AND I ALMOST ENDED UP KICKING SOME ORDINARY PERSON AND SEND THEM FLYING.

SEE

THE INCIDENT THIS TIME WAS PARTIALLY MY FAULT, YOU KNOW?

...THEN THAT IS TO SAY, WE WERE FATED TO MEET.

TO BE HONEST, I ALSO FELT THAT WE WOULD WIND UP MEETING AGAIN TODAY.

YOU'RE RIGHT. IF IT'S THAT SORT OF FATE, THEN I DEFINITELY WELCOME IT.

LONG TIME NO SEE.

YOU'VE GROWN UP, SHIKI.

YEAH

YOU SEEM TO BE DOING WELL TOO, SENSEI.

WE SIT IN THE FIELD OF GRASS AND BEGIN TO MAKE SMALL TALK.

WE TALK ABOUT SENSELESS THINGS, JUST LIKE THE OLD DAYS.

IT COULD BE ABOUT THINGS THAT HAVE ALREADY HAPPENED,
IT COULD ALSO BE ABOUT THINGS THAT HAVE YET TO HAPPEN.

WE JUST CHATTED, AS TIME PASSED US BY UNDER THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

IS THAT SO. THEN IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR ME, TOO-

ALRIGHT, IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR ME TO GO.

I'VE PLANNED TO LEAVE BEFORE DAWN, SO WE'LL HAVE TO PART HERE

AH!

OH, I SEE

DANG IT CAN'T BE HELPED. LOOKS LIKE NO SLEEP OR REST UNTIL LAST NIGHT HAS STARTED TO CATCH UP WITH ME.

...HEH

SHI-KI-?

YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU HAVE ANY INJURIES. IS YOUR BODY ALRIGHT?

THAT DIZZINESS JUST NOW IS YOUR BIGGEST WEAKNESS, HUH.

...HM. IF YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT, THEN I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT.

BUT UNLIKE SENSEI, I HAVE A NORMAL PERSON'S BODY.

YEAH, THANK YOU FOR YOUR CON-CERN.

SHIKI.

CAN YOU FEEL THAT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LAST FOR MUCH LONGER?

I DO KIND OF KNOW ABOUT IT ALREADY.

...EH, YEAH.

AS THINGS ARE NOW, YOUR CAREFREE ATTITUDE WILL JUST END UP BEING A HEAVIER BURDEN TO YOUR BODY.

I'M THINKING, ARE YOU REALLY NOT AFRAID OF DYING?

IS THAT SO? YOU STILL SEEM PRETTY CALM ABOUT IT.

I THINK I'M MORE AFRAID OF DEATH THAN MOST PEOPLE.

REAL LY, I...

NAH, NO WAY.

.....

BUT THAT'S SOMETHING IN THE FUTURE, SO I CAN'T THINK ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT NOW.

BECAUSE LIKE I'VE SAID, I AM LIVING IN THE PRESENT. THAT'S WHY I PRIORITIZE WHAT I WANT TO BE DOING NOW.

AH, SO YOU CAN SEE YOUR OWN DEATH TOO. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE MORE AFRAID OF DEATH THAN OTHERS.

NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT EITHER.

IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN CLEARLY SENSE WHEN I'M ABOUT TO DIE.

...THAT MAKES SENSE. EVEN FOR ME, I'D BE SHIVERING TOO IF I COULD SEE THE THIRTEEN STEPS TO THE GALLOWS.

IT'S THE SAME THING.

..SAY

CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING, FOR REFER-ENCE?

ISN'T THAT RIGHT? YOU CAN NO LONGER OBTAIN 'NORMAL' HAPPINESS LIKE EVERY-ONE ELSE.

IT WOULD ONLY BE NATURAL, TO CURSE IT AND FEAR FOR THE SPAN OF YOUR OWN LIFE.

YOU ENDED UP WITH A BODY THAT'S WEAKER THAN THOSE OF OTHERS.

AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THAT BODY OF YOURS, ALL THAT AWAITS YOU IS SUFFERING-

HEY SHIKI. DON'T YOU FIND IT PAINFUL AND HARD, LIVING LIFE WITH SUCH A BODY?

BUT I AM HAPPY. THAT, I'M SURE OF IT.

THAT MAY BE SO.

BECAUSE UP UNTIL NOW, EVERYTHING HAS BEEN A LOT OF FUN.

THAT'S WHY IT'LL PROBABLY KEEP ON BEING FUN IN THE FUTURE, TOO.

...AH, IS THAT SO.

TO BE HONEST, I DO FEEL SOME REGRET.

...SHIKI

THAT DAY, I FEEL LIKE I'VE SAID SOMETHING TO YOU THAT I SHOULDN'T HAVE.

THAT'S WHY IF YOU HAVE THAT POWER, SHIKI, THEN THERE DEFINITELY HAS TO BE SOME MEANING TO IT.

GOD DOESN'T GIVE ANYONE EXCESSIVE POWER WITHOUT REASON.

IT'S WHY IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ALRIGHT EVEN IF YOU DID NOTH-ING, SHIKI.

NO OTHER FACTOR OR POWER CAN INTERFERE, ESPECIALLY NOT SOMETHING AS AMBIGUOUS AS A GOD.

BUT YOU KNOW, IT'S UP TO THE INDIVIDUAL TO DECIDE WHAT THAT MEANING MAY BE.

THERE'S NO ROOM FOR ANYONE ELSE.

I AM REGRETTING MY WORDS, BECAUSE... YOU COULD HAVE LED A NORMAL LIFE THAT'S MORE SUITABLE FOR YOU.

YOU REALLY DID THAT, SHIKI.

BUT SOME-THING LIKE THAT IS REALLY DIFFICULT TO DO.

EVEN IF YOU DENIED THOSE EYES OF YOURS AND DID NOTHING, IT STILL WOULD HAVE BEEN ALRIGHT.

DIDN'T I TELL YOU BACK THEN THAT YOU SHOULD LIVE YOUR LIFE WITH AN HONEST HEART?

...ISN'T IT IRONIC THAT A KILLER MORE SKILLED AT THAT THAN ANYONE ELSE ALSO HATES KILLING MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE?

IF YOU LIVED A NORMAL LIFE, OR ALLOWED YOUR HEART TO DEVIATE A BIT FROM THE TRUE PATH, THEN YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO GO THROUGH SO MUCH PAIN.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH EASIER FOR YOU IF YOU WENT ASTRAY A LITTLE, BECAUSE YOUR EYES DRAW YOU TO DISASTER.

TO START OUT WITH, I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT AS PARTICU-LARLY PAINFUL.

BUT THAT HAS NO MEANING.

THAT MAY BE TRUE. NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH SIMPLER IF I TOOK IT EASY AND GAVE UP.

.....

YEAH.

I JUST LIKE MYSELF THE WAY I AM.

EVERY-THING I DID, I DID IT BECAUSE I WANTED TO. IT'S NOT LIKE I'M A SAINT OR ANYTHING.

YOU HAVE THE WRONG IDEA, SENSEI.

-MUZMS....

-WHEN SENSEI TOLD ME THAT I COULD KEEP ON LIVING LIKE THIS, I WAS TRULY REALLY HAPPY.

THAT IS WHY.....

I DON'T REGRET ANYTHING AT ALL,

SO THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO REGRET ANYTHING, EITHER.

...AH, I SEE

HA HA...

.....HA

I REALLY GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU...

YOU'VE REALLY GROWN UP TO BE A GOOD PERSON.

SO SOME-ONE LIKE YOU WOULD BALANCE THINGS OUT.

YEAH. YOU'RE FINE JUST THE WAY YOU ARE, SHKI.

.....

THIS WORLD IS FULL OF DEVIOUS PEOPLE,

BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND, THEN I GUESS THAT IT'S ALRIGHT.

IT MAY END UP BEING PRETTY HARSH ON YOU,

——— WITH A "SEE YA", SENSEI TURNS HER BACK TO ME.

I CAN'T STOP HER, AND THERE'S NO REASON TO.
I CAN FEEL THAT THIS REALLY IS THE LAST TIME.

...NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THERE IS ONE THING I FORGOT TO SAY.

THAT DAY.
IN AN OCEAN OF GRASS.

FACING A VERY IMPORTANT FRIEND WHO HAD SPOKEN WITH ME, WHO WAS ABOUT TO DISAPPEAR.

SHE TOLD ME
"ALL I'M SAYING IS LIVE TRUE TO YOURSELF, AND BECOME A MAN IN THE WAY THAT YOU THINK IS RIGHT."

SHE ALSO TAUGHT ME THAT I HAD TO ACCEPT MY MISTAKES, THE MEANING OF "I'M SORRY", AND HOW IMPORTANT THAT PHRASE IS.

THAT'S WHY——

I NEED TO TELL HER.

SENSEI...

IT'S JUST THAT IF I SAY THESE WORDS, I REALLY WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE HER EVER AGAIN.

——EVEN SO, I *MUST* SAY IT.

HM?

THIS IS THE RIGHT TIME.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I'M GLAD I MET YOU, SENSEI.

THESE WORDS THAT I COULDN'T SAY BEFORE AS A CHILD, BECAUSE I WAS FILLED WITH THE SADNESS OF PARTING.

THAT IS HOW I, TOHNO SHIKI, HAVE ALWAYS FELT, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

SHE STOPS THERE, LOWERS HER HEAD, AND TURNS TOWARD ME WITH HER USUAL EXPRESSION.

TAKE CARE, SHIKI.

LET'S MEET AGAIN, IF WE'RE FATED TO DO SO.

SHE SAYS THIS AS IF IT WAS NOTHING, AND THE WIND SUDDENLY GUSTS.

IT RUSTLES THROUGH THE SWAYING GRASS, AND THE MOONLIGHT VANISHES.

AFTER THAT,
AS IF ABDUCTED BY THE WIND,
HER SILHOUETTE DISAPPEARS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.

I EXHALE.

LOOKS LIKE FOR THE TIME BEING,
MY HEART WON'T LET ME STAND UP.

"HEY SHIKI. DON'T YOU FIND IT PAINFUL AND HARD, LIVING LIFE WITH SUCH A BODY?"

"ISN'T THAT RIGHT? YOU CAN NO LONGER OBTAIN 'NORMAL' HAPPINESS LIKE EVERYONE ELSE. AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THAT BODY OF YOURS, ALL THAT AWAITS YOU IS SUFFERING."

IT'LL BE FINE, SENSEI.

I ASK OF YOU AGAIN. DO YOU TRULY WISH TO GO?

...WHAT IS THIS.

AHH... I REALLY AM JUST FAR TOO KIND FOR MY OWN GOOD.

It was meant to be forgotten in the future, so it has already been forgotten in the past.

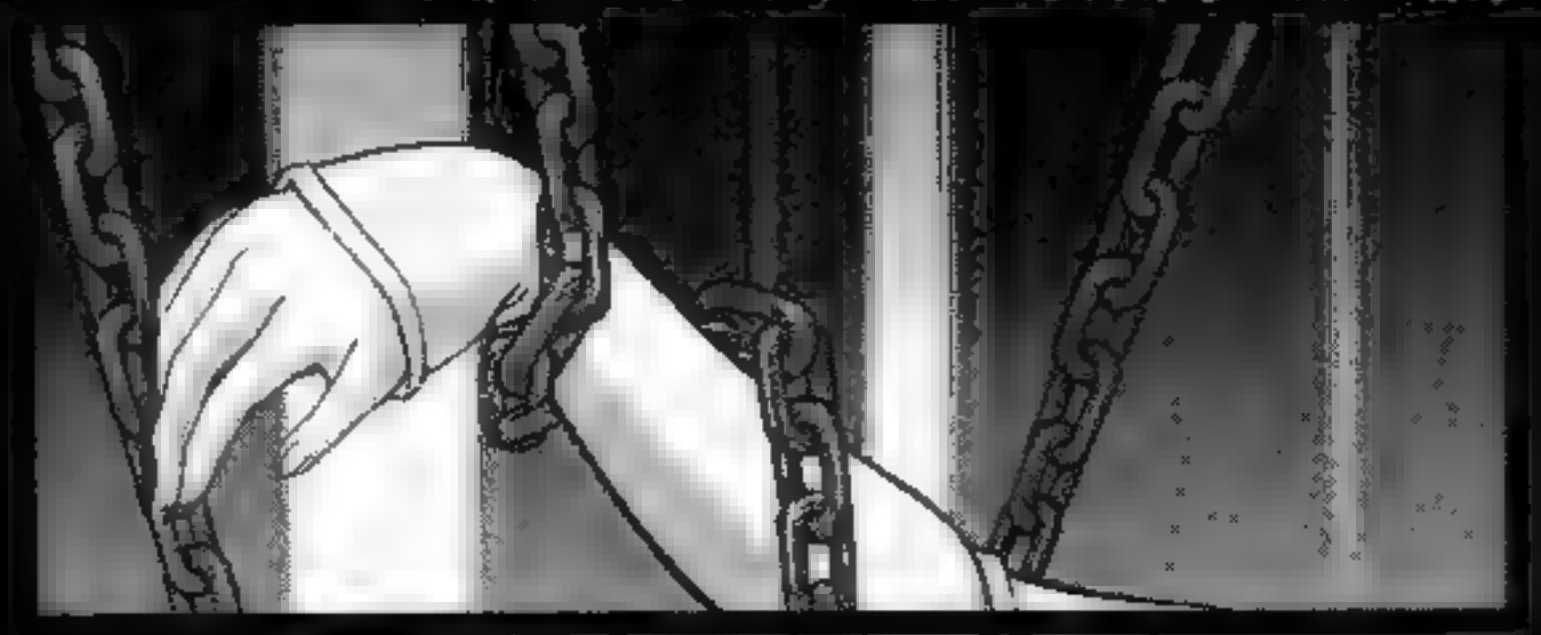
"For a life like yours, to open both your eyes and catch a single glimpse of light would already be ample satisfaction."

--The elderly man clothed in black

said with a gentle smile.

I am no longer capable of opening my eyes.

I am trapped by these unbreakable chains in eternal slumber.



In this unmoving cradle, suspended by time ——

I continue to dream about many, many things by myself.

Things that I remember, that I've forgotten, that I hoped for, or that I've never thought about. Everything resurfaces and sinks down, perishing like bubbles.

In this dream, I accept it all without struggle.

—— My wishes and my regrets...

...What if, back then.

Say that I drank his blood, how would things be now?

What if, I could keep on suppressing my bloodlust.

Would I have been able to stay at that place...

—What if...

What if back then, I was to take hold of his hand——

—Say that I really won't be able to take one more step away from here...

...But that's still all good enough.

It's because I've already been saved by him.

It's because I've already obtained unforgettable, priceless things from him.

Or maybe it's because I can think back to everything about him——

SHIKI

...YOU TROU-BLESOME PERSON.

GOOD MORNING, ARCHEID.

...WHAT IS... GOING ON?

...

...
HUH
?

...Ok.

I BROKE A LOT OF THINGS ON MY WAY IN...
I HAVE TO APOLO-GIZE FIRST.

ABOUT THAT... SORRY.
I'M REALLY SORRY.

I DO GET THA ALL THE EN-TRANCES HAD TO BE SHUT...

E-EVEN THOUGH ...

ALL THE OTHER DOORS I FOUND WERE EITHER LOCKED OR SEALED OFF!

BUT ISN'T BARRI-CADING THE MAIN GATE GOING WAY OVER-BOARD!

EVEN ALL THE STAIRS WERE BLOCKED OFF HALFWAY UP!

AND THOSE DAMNED CHAINS WERE EVERY-WHERE I WENT!!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HOW MUCH EFFORT IT TOOK AND HOW HARD IT WAS TO GET HERE!?

...
SHIKI,

WHY ARE YOU ...

FOR WAYS TO GET TO YOU, AND BE WITH YOU AGAIN SOMEHOW.

EH, I'VE BEEN GOING AROUND TOO, AND I HEARD ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS.

HAVEN'T WE ALREADY PROMISED EACH OTHER?

YOU SAID IT BEFORE, RIGHT? THAT YOU'LL MAKE ME TAKE RESPONSIBILITY --

--FOR KILLING YOU.

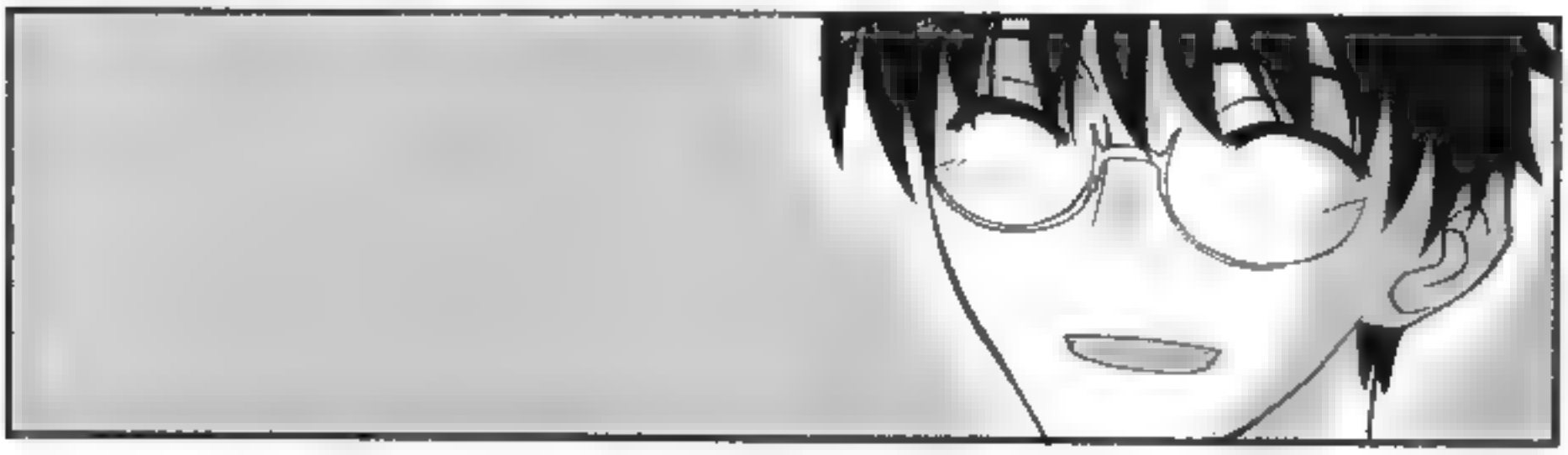
BUT THE TRUTH IS,

I JUST REALLY ENJOYED SPENDING TIME WITH YOU.

... THAT IS WHY.

LET'S LIVE ON TOGE-THER,

ARCHEID.



SHIKI!

IT'LL BE FINE, SENSEI.

OKAY.....

IT DOESN'T MATTER, EVEN IF I KNOW THAT THERE IS AN END--

I BETTER START TO GET GOING, TOO...

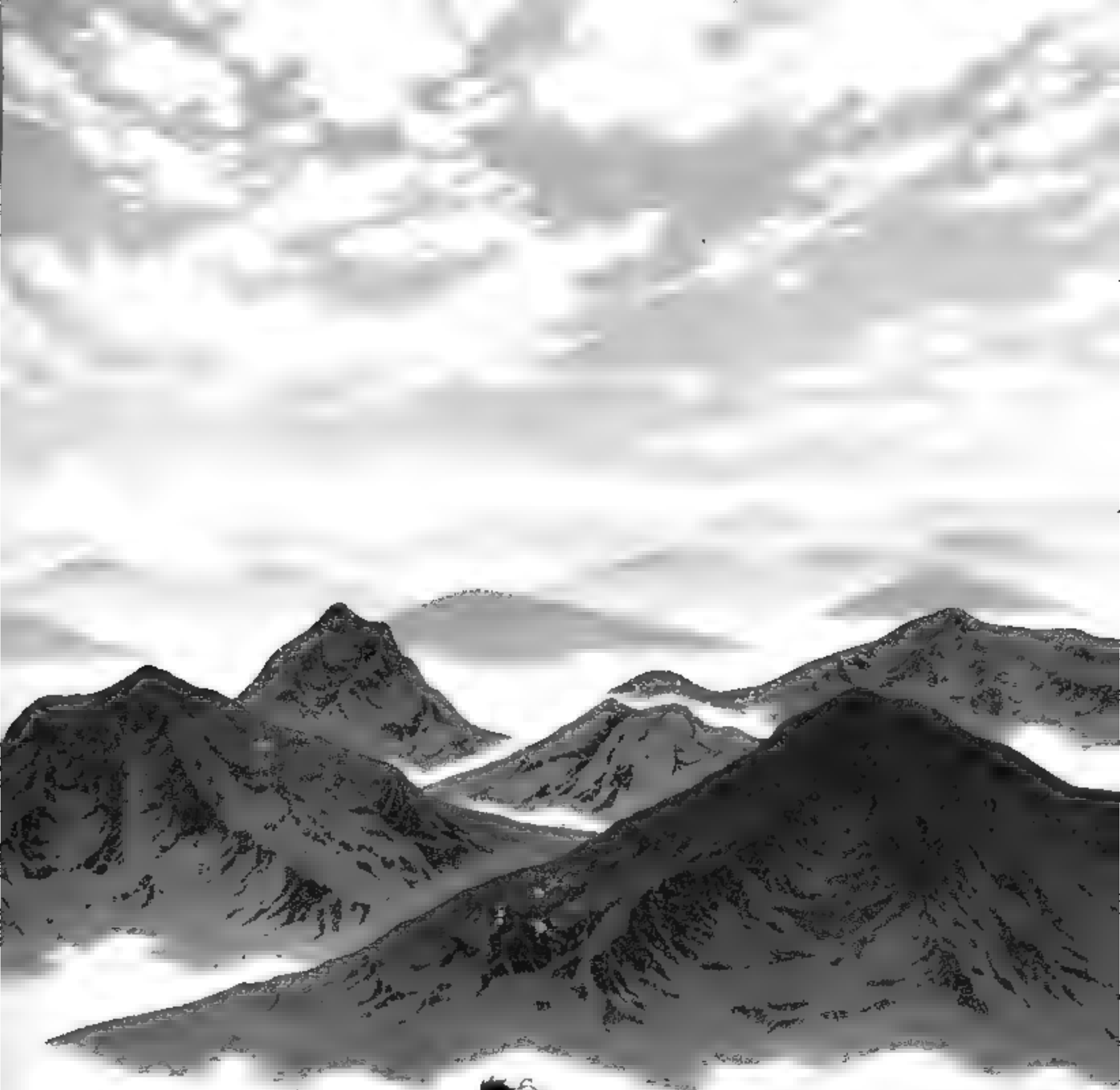
EVEN IF THAT REACHED A CONCLUSION, IT WOULD STILL BE A HAPPY ONE.

OUR MEMORIES WILL LIVE ON.

SO SENSEI, THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO WORRY.

BECAUSE I

BECAUSE
WE WILL,
TOGETHER



WE'RE
HAPPY
TO BE
ALIVE.

THAT'S
ALL THAT
MATTERS.

Scans: FLYLUO.com (Chinese RAWs)

Translation: angrypokstick, Kurai D, Romsus

Cleaning: Kurai D

Typesetting: Kurai D

Coordinated on Beast's Lair

Here is the end! Enjoy EVER AFTER, everyone, and have a good year. :)

月姫 10

TSUKIHIME
BLUE BLOOD GLASS BREAK UNDER THE CRIMSON AIR.

佐々木少年

C110-10
電撃コミックス

ISBN978-4-04-870190-7
C9979 ¥600E

ASCII MEDIA WORKS
発行●アスキー・メディアワークス
定価：本体600円 ※消費税が別に加算されます
雑誌 49062-82
©TYPE-MOON／「真月譚 月姫」製作委員会

TSUKIHIME

►DENGEKI COMICS

GUNSLINGER GIRL❶〜⓬ 相田裕
苺ましまろ❶〜❽ ばらスィー
よつばと！❶〜⓾ あずまきよひこ
こはるびより❶〜❻ みづきたけひと
真月譚 月姫 全10巻 佐々木少年
灼眼のシャナ❶〜❽ 笹倉綾人／高橋弥七郎
かみちゅ！全2巻 鳴子ハナハル　ベサメムーチョ
シャイナ・ダルク〜黒き月の王と蒼碧の月の姫君〜全4巻 綉眞ゆかり／中山文十郎
乃木坂春香の秘密 全4巻 深山靖田／五十嵐雄策
とある科学の超電磁砲❶〜❺ 冬川基／鎌池和馬
マブラヴ オルタネイティヴ❶〜❺ 蒔島梓／アージュ
とらドラ！❶〜❽ 絶叫／竹宮ゆゆこ
天元突破グレンラガン❶〜❻ 森小太郎／GAINAX
我が家のお稲荷さま。❶〜❻ 松風水蓮／柴村仁
ef − a fairy tale of the two.❶〜❾ 雅樹里　御影・鏡遊
ケメコデラックス！❶〜❽ いわさきまさかず
森口織人の帝王学 全2巻 真田鈴／おかゆまさき
デウス×マキナ❶〜❹ 鳥丸渡
WHITE ALBUM 全3巻 阿倍野ちゃこ／アクアプラス
アスラクライン❶〜❹ あきづきりょう　三雲岳斗
こいこい★生徒会❶〜❸ あらさかなお
ホーロロギオン 全3巻 乃花タツ／花田十輝
魔法使い(♂)と弟子(♀)の不適切なカンケイ❶〜❸ 紺矢ユキオ
れでぃ×ばと！❶ 猫屋敷ねこ丸／上月司
百花繚乱 戦国乙女❶〜❷ しなのゆら／白組
天乞 -あまごい-❶〜❷ ていか小鳩
大奥チャカポン！全2巻 まいたけ
ティンクル☆くるせいだーす GoGo! 全2巻 ヒジキ／Lillian
ジャグリ❶ 裏藤沖人
マブラヴ オルタネイティヴ トータル・イクリプス❶ イシガキタカシ　吉宗鋼紀(アージュ)
ラブアレルゲン❶ 桂遊生丸／あかほりさとる
ソ・ラ・ノ・ヲ・ト❶ 神馬耶樹／Paradores
車輪の国、向日葵の少女❶ 宇佐美渉　あかべぇそふとつう
おおかみかくし 〜深緋の章〜❶ 夜野みるら／コナミデジタルエンタテインメント
のりタマ❶ オオツカマヒロ
オオカミさんと七人の仲間たち❶ 珠洲城くるみ／沖田雅
プリンセスラバー！ しゅー／Ricotta/COMFORT

最終話

GOOD MORNING, SHIKI-SAMA.

PLEASE WAKE UP.

SHIKI-
SAMA...

...PLEASE WAKE UP.

IF YOU'RE LATE LIKE YESTERDAY, YOU'LL BREAK YOUR PROMISE WITH AKIHA-SAMA.

AKIHA-SAMA WILL END UP SCOLDING YOU AGAIN TODAY.

IF IT PLEASES YOU,

...

THAT DOES NOT PLEASE ME AT ALL.

.....

...FUU

...SO YOU'RE AWAKE

I'VE BEEN AWAKE FOR A WHILE.

?

MORNING, HISUI.

GOOD MORNING, SHIKI-SAMA.

GOT IT. THANKS.

WELL THEN, AFTER YOU'VE FINISHED WASHING UP, PLEASE HEAD TOWARDS TO THE DINING ROOM, SHIKI-SAMA.

SHIKI-SAMA ...

MORNING, AKIHA.

ALRIGHT, THEN I'LL JUST BRING YOU A CUP OF TEA.

AHH, THANKS

NAH, I'M FINE THIS MORNING.

BREAKFAST, SHIKI-SAN?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO IS UP LATE, NII-SAN.

YOU'RE UP EARLY TODAY TOO, AKIHA.

NO NO ..AS A STUDENT, SHOULDN'T YOU BE HEADING TO SCHOOL TOO, AKIHA?

THE ONLY REASON I'M LETTING YOU HEAD BACK TO SCHOOL IS BECAUSE YOU SAID YOU HAD RECOVERED.

.....

THAT'S.. THAT'S OVER DOING THINGS ...

I'LL GET A TUTOR TO TEACH YOU. THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO GO TO SCHOOL.

IT IS INDEED A STUDENT'S DUTY TO STUDY.

BUT YOU CAN STUDY JUST AS WELL RIGHT HERE, IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME.

... .IF YOU THINK THAT THAT'S TOO MUCH...

THEN I'LL TEACH YOU MYSE-F!

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH ME WORRYING ABOUT MY BROTHER'S STUDIES!!

NO NO NO ...

I'LL BE LEAVING NOW!

NII-SAN !!!

AN - ANY WAY,

LETS PUT THIS OFF FOR TODAY!!

KIYAA <3

KO HA KU !!

ARA ARA, HE RAN AWAY.

YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST SAID SOMETHING LIKE, "I JUST WANTED TO BE WITH YOU" THAT WOULD HAVE DONE IT.

BLAME ME FOR BEING SUCH A WOOL HEADED FOOL.

... I KNOW THAT.

..PHEW

WOULD SOMEONE LIKE YOURSELF GIVE UP SO EASILY, AKIHA-SAMA?

HEH HEH.

WELL THEN, I'LL TRANSFER MYSELF TO NII-SAN'S SCHOOL.

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THE ARRANGE-MENTS, KOHAKU.

...GEEZ

THIS WILL BE INTER-ESTING ♪

YES ♪

...EVEN SO,

NII-
SAN!
...

LOOKS LIKE WINTER IS FINALLY HERE.

I WOKE UP IN MY ROOM.

THAT NIGHT,

IT SEEMS SENPAI HAD CARRIED ME HERE.

FORTUNATELY, AKIHA AND THE OTHERS DIDN'T SEEM TO KNOW I LEFT.

UNABLE TO SEE "DEATH" SO LONG AS I'M WEARING MY GLASSES.

FORTUNATELY, MY EYES SEEM TO HAVE GONE BACK HOW THEY WERE BEFORE -

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH AKIHA IS A BIT UNEASY AT TIMES, BUT OF COURSE WE'RE STILL BROTHER AND SISTER.

HUH ?

HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING, SHIKI?

SORRY MAN, BUT I HAVEN'T FULLY RECOV-ERED. I'LL GIVE IT A MISS THIS TIME.

I SAID, TO CELEBRATE YOUR RECOVERY, LETS GO HAVE A BLAST AT THE MARK II!

HISUI AND KOHAKU STILL CONTINUE TO TREAT ME AS THEY DID BEFORE.

BEH, HOW BORING .

WELL, AT LEAST THINGS APPEAR TO HAVE SETTLED DOWN.

IT'S BEEN ABOUT A MONTH SINCE THAT NIGHT.

RECONSTRUC-TION WORK HAS SINCE STARTED ON THE SCHOOL.

TOHNO SHIKI'S LIFE,

HAS RETURNED TO THE WAY THINGS WERE BEFORE.

...

HMM . .

EH?

ME?

...NO. SOMETHING DID CHANGE.

WELL, WE HAVEN'T HEARD OF ANY MURDERS LATELY. BUT THE CULPRIT STILL HAVEN'T BEEN CAUGHT, SO WE AREN'T EXACTLY SAFE YET.

IS THAT RIGHT, YUMIZUKA -SAN?

I SEE... WELL, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

THERE'S NO ONE CALLED CIEL HERE IN THE SCHOOL, AND NO ONE REMEMBERS HER.

UM. SORRY, BUT I CAN'T SAY THAT I DO.

SHI .. ERU ?

AH RIGHT. YUMIZUKA-SAN, DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW CIEL-SEMPAI?

BUT DIDN'T WE ..PROMISE TO VISIT THE THEME PARK TOGETHER? TOHNO-KUN, INUI-KUN, AND I?

EVEN I CAN'T BELIEVE SOME-THING LIKE THAT HAP-PENED

RIGHT? THAT'S SOME STRANGE DREAM...

TOHNO-KUN, WILL YOU LISTEN TO SOME-THING STRANGE ?

BUT, SOMETHING ABOUT THAT SEEMS STRANGELY FAMILIAR..

ARIHIKO, DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

UM.. NOPE. NOT AT ALL.

... AHH, THAT DOESN'T SOUND TOO BAD

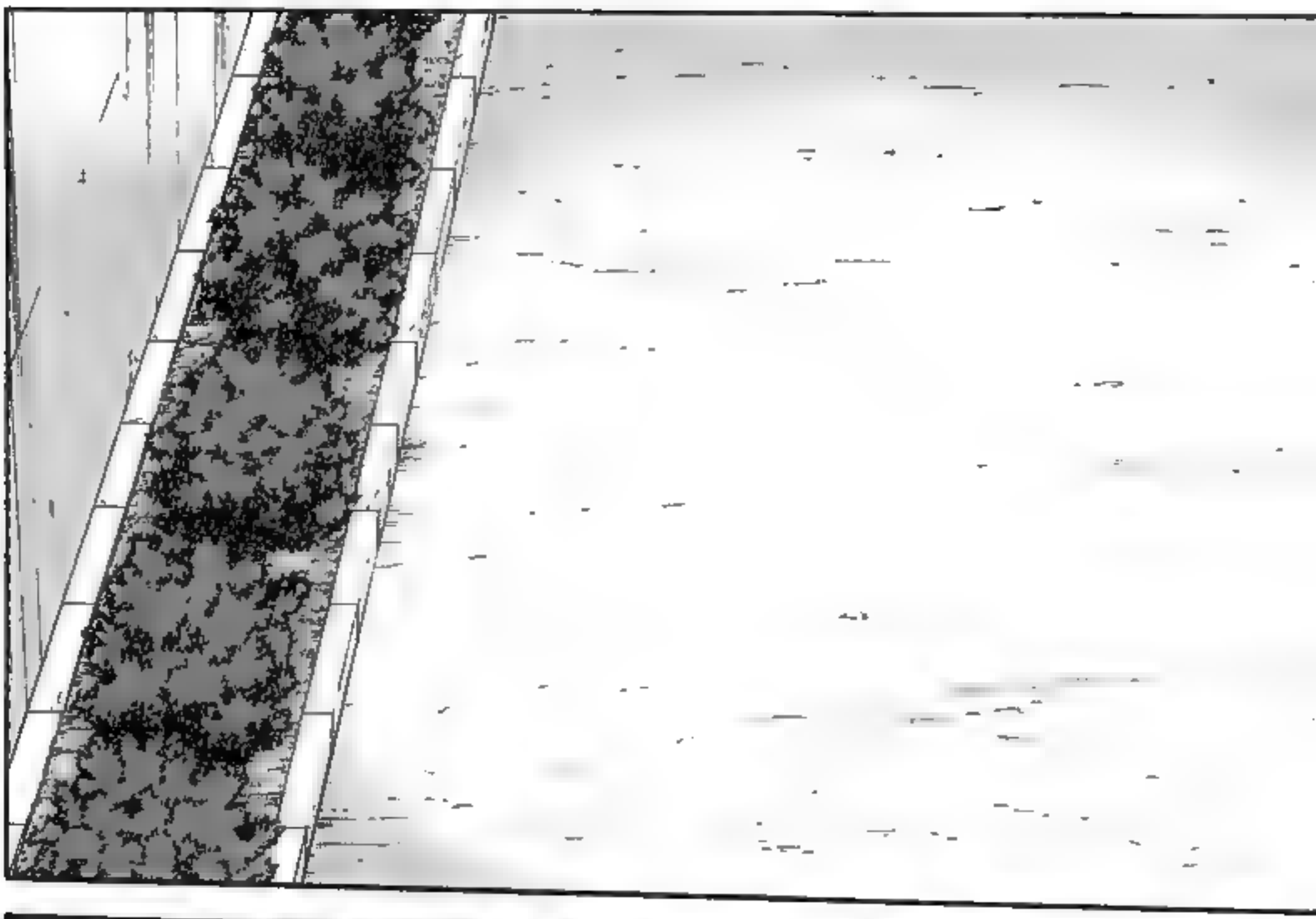
WELL, SHALL WE VISIT THE PARK THEN?

EEE EHHH HHH !!!!

ALRIGHT!! LETS GO, YUMIZUKA!! SINCE TOHNO-KUN IS COMING, YOU'D MIGHT AS WELL COME ALONG!

BUT STILL, ALL THE ATTENTION GIVEN TO IT WILL PROBABLY DIE OUT SOONER OR LATER.

IT HAS BEEN A MONTH SINCE THE LAST OCCURRENCE OF THE "VAMPIRE SERIAL MURDERS", AND IT APPEARS THE CASE IS NO-WHERE CLOSE TO BEING SOLVED.

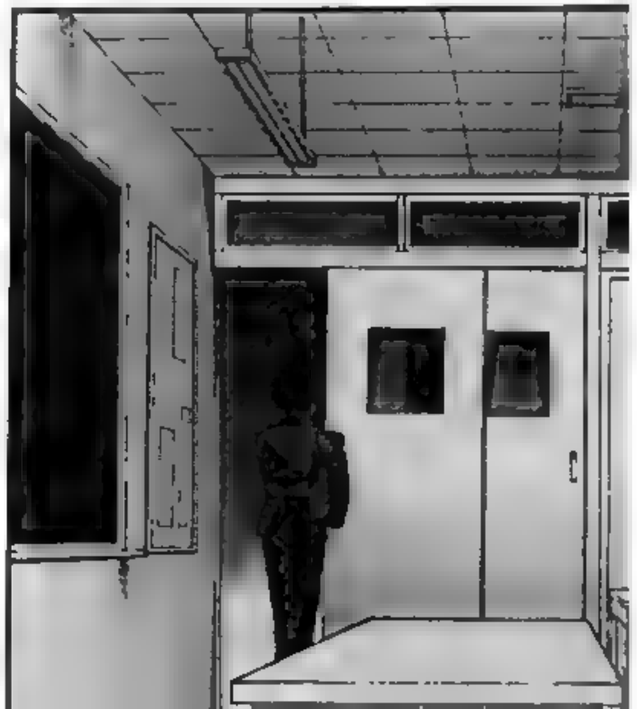


FOR SOME REASON, I JUST FEEL AT PEACE.

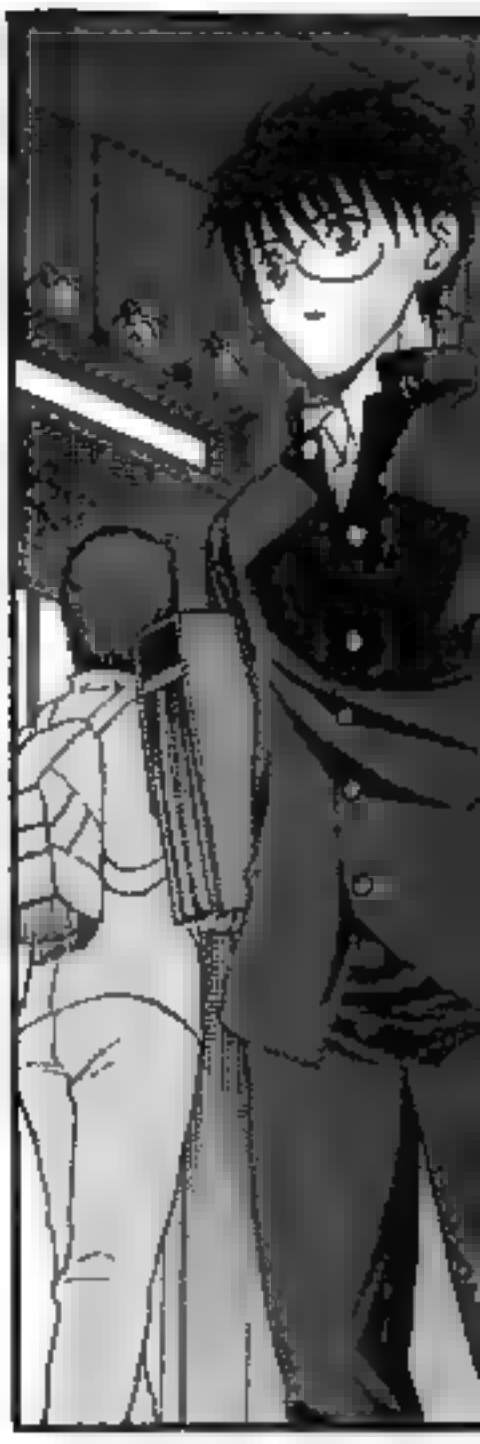
.YOU FEELING OKAY?

I CARRY AN UNFILLABLE VOID IN MY HEART, BUT I CONTINUE ON AS I DID BEFORE.

AS FOR ME,



McDonald's



IS THAT SO? I LIKE "IFS", THROUGH.
McDonald's

EVEN IF IT IS

SUGARCOATING THINGS, ISN'T IT BETTER IF THERE'S ALWAYS SOME HOPE?

SPEAK ING ABOUT

"WHAT IFS", HUH?

AND I'LL BE VISITING THE THEMEPARK TOGETHER WITH YUMIZUKA-SAN AND ARIHIKO IN THE WEEKENDS.

THESE ARE THINGS TO BE HAPPY ABOUT, AREN'T THEY?

...WELL, LETS HEAD BACK HOME

KOHAKU WILL BE WHIPPING UP ANOTHER FABULOUS DINNER TONIGHT.

KI

THAT'S RIGHT.... I SHOULD BE FEELING PRETTY CONTENTED WITH MY LIFE.

SHIKI

AND YET, WHY DOES MY HEART FEEL...

?

SHIKI

KO
...
...
KO
HA
KU
-SAN
?

SHIKI
-SAN
?

MOOUUU! I'VE BEEN CALLING YOUR NAME FOR A WHILE NOW, BUT YOU TOTALLY IGNORED ME!

....JUST WHAT IS THIS THING I'M ENDURING, ANYWAY?

SHIKI-SAN?

DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG YOU'VE BEEN GONE FROM HOME?

WE RAN OUT OF COOKING OIL, SO I'M HERE TO STOCK UP ON INGREDIENTS.

BESIDES, IT'S A GOOD REASON TO COME OUT LOOKING FOR YOU.

FOR ME?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, KOHAKU-SAN?

.....

"WHAC

IT'S THIS LATE ALREADY ?

YOU'RE ALWAYS MAKING OTHER PEOPLE WORRY ABOUT YOU, SHIKI-SAN.

DID YOU THINK THAT AKIHA-SAMA AND HISUI-CHAN WOULDN'T NOTICE?

SHIKI-SAN, YOU'RE STILL PRONE TO GETTING LOST SOMETIMES, AREN'T YOU?

BUT THAT IS SOMETHING THAT CANNOT BE HELPED, I SUPPOSE.

SOMETIMES, I'LL SEE THINGS THAT REMINDS ME OF HER.

EH? IS THAT SO?

PERHAPS EVENTUALLY, SUCH THINGS WON'T MOVE ME AS STRONGLY AS THEY DO NOW

SORRY

.....

I KNOW THAT YOU ARE A GUY, SHIKI-SAN, AND GUYS WILL LEAVE THE HOUSE AS AND WHEN THEY WANT.

I WAS WORRIED TOO, YOU KNOW SO MUCH SO THAT BROKE THREE VASES WHILE CLEANING THE HOUSE.

THAT'S A LITTLE TOO MUCH, KOHAKU

BE SURE TO APOLOGIZE TO AKIHA-SAMA AND HISUI WHEN YOU GET BACK HOME.

GOT IT

THAT YOU WILL ALWAYS RETURN HOME, SAFE AND SOUND.

BUT PROMISE ME THIS -

I GOT IT.

...RIGHT.

KOHAKU, THAT'S

NEXT TIME HAVE TO COME SEARCHING FOR YOU, THERE'LL BE AN INTERESTING PUNISHMENT - WAITING FOR YOU!

I'M SERIOUS, YOU KNOW.

YOU'RE TOO UPTIGHT, KOHAKU.

I ONE DAY,

?

WHEN I CAN NO LONGER ENDURE THE PAIN IN MY HEART,

WHEN THAT TIME COMES, I WONDER WILL I BE ABLE TO CONTINUE LIVING MY LIFE AS I DO NOW?

WELL, I GUESS THE CHANCES OF THAT HAPPENING IS ABOUT 50-50, I SUPPOSE.

. ...UNTIL THAT DAY.

IT MAY BE A LITTLE CHILDISH, BUT I'LL DO WHATEVER I CAN TO HOLD ON TO THE PROMISE THAT I'VE MADE WITH HER THAT DAY.

"WHEN ALL THIS IS OVER, WHEN WE'VE BEATEN THIS VAMPIRE...WHY DON'T WE DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS AGAIN?"

AT THAT TIME, SHE TILTED HER HEAD TO THE SIDE AS IF IN CONFUSION.

"SO I WAS WONDERING, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE WERE TO MEET AGAIN WITHOUT ANY RESPONSIBILITIES... IF WE JUST MET FOR NO PARTICULAR REASON."

JUST MEETING AGAIN AS TWO FRIENDS WHO GOT ALONG, DOING ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR.

IF WE COULD CREATE SOME NORMAL MEMORIES LIKE THAT,

I KNEW SHE WOULD BE HAPPY.

THERE MIGHT NOT BE ANY MEANING TO IT, BUT, I'M SURE IT WILL BE VERY FUN!

RIGHT!, WHEN ALL THIS IS FINALLY OVER, LETS COME BACK HERE AGAIN, SHIKI!

I'LL NEVER FORGET THE SMILE SHE HAD AT THAT TIME.

I WON'T FORGET

I'LL ALWAYS BE WAITING HERE.

I CANNOT FORGET.

THESE HOURS UNTIL THE VERMILLION FADES COMPLETELY.

THE QUIET TIME TILL THE CRIMSON SKY DISAPPEARS.

EVEN THROUGH I'M WAITING FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN NEVER COME,

MY HEART IS STRANGELY CONTENT.

Scarlet Moon Scans

RAW: Twi
Translation: Stifler
Cleaning: Stifler
Typesetter: Stifler

A Scarlet Moon scanlation project
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I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU.

WELL,

I DID SAY I WOULD NEVER BREAK A PROMISE WITH YOU AGAIN.

I COULDN'T JUST LEAVE YOU ALONE LIKE THAT, SO I CAME HERE.

I REALLY WAS PLANNING ON DISAPPEARING, SHIKI, BUT YOU'D JUST CONTINUE WAITING FOREVER.

THANK YOU,

FOR KEEPING THAT PROMISE.

WELCOME BACK,

ARCUEID.

I'M BACK, SHIKI.

...
YUP.

MY HEART IS FILLED WITH JOY...

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVE RETURNED TO ME...

IS THERE ANY PLACE YOU WANT TO GO TO, ARCLEID?

THERE'S A PRETTY INTERESTING MOVIE SHOWING AT THE CINEMAS NOW. SHALL WE GO WATCH IT?

THAT'S RIGHT!

WHERE SHALL WE GO TODAY?

WELL THEN,

IS THAT SO? WELL, HOW ABOUT WE -

NO.

THAT'S ENOUGH

THAT SOUNDS FUN.

BUT. .I'LL PASS FOR TODAY.

FORGIVE ME

BUT, THIS .TIME, I'LL BE THE ONE

TO BREAK MY PROMISE WITH YOU, SHIKI.

BEFORE THAT,

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THE VAMPIRIC IMPULSE WAS.

I HAVE TASTED HUMAN BLOOD ONCE, A LONG LONG TIME AGO.

I...

BUT THE TRUTH WAS THAT IT JUST HAVEN'T APPEARED IN ME YET.

THE OTHER TRUE ANCESTORS SEEMED TO BELIEVE THAT I DID NOT HAVE IT.

I DIDN'T KNOW I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO DRINK THAT.

...

THAT'S WHY

BACK THEN, I ONLY KNEW WHAT THEY THEY TAUGHT ME.

HE WENT ON A RAMPAGE, AND CONSEQUENLY, ALL THE OTHER TRLE ANCESTORS OTHER THAN MYSELF WAS KILLED.

HOWEVER, THE HUMAN WHOSE BLOOD I DRANK MANAGED TO STEAL A PORTION OF MY POWER, AND BECAME ONE OF THE STRONGEST DEAD APOSTLES IN EXISTENCE.

AFTER THAT, I MANAGED BRING MYSELF UNDER CONTROL.

BECAUSE OF THAT ONE MISTAKE, I DESTROYED EVERYTHING.

THAT ISN'T YOUR FAULT . .

IT'S THEIR OWN FAULT FOR NOT TEACHING YOU ANY OF THESE THINGS.

THOSE GUYS HAD IT COMING.

I'M ONLY HERE BECAUSE YOU'VE COMPLETELY "KILLED" ROA.

EVEN THOUGH I'VE KILLED HIM SO MANY TIMES, IT WAS ONLY HIS PHYSICAL BODY, AND NOT HIS SOUL.

BUT YOU.... YOU DESTROYED HIS VERY EXISTENCE, SHIKI.

THANK YOU, SHIKI.

THEN THAT'S FINE, RIGHT?

THE POWER THAT ROA STOLE RETURNED TO ME, AND I WAS ABLE TO REVIVE MYSELF.

AND THEN,

THERE IS NO PROBLEM, IS THERE...?

BUT, THIS IS IT FOR ME.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A TRUE ANCESTOR TO MAINTAIN THEIR SANITY ONCE THEY HAVE TASTED HUMAN BLOOD.

AND THAT'S WHY

LIKE I SAID,

THERE IS NO PROBLEM,' IS THERE?

THE VAMPIRIC IMPLUSE HAS BEEN AWOKEN INSIDE OF ME.

IT IS ALL I CAN DO TO KEEP IT AT BAY.

..EVEN WITH ALL THAT,

THERE IS NO PROBLEM.

BECAUSE I ..

I JUST WANT TO BE

BY YOUR SIDE.

THAT PROMISE ...

...SHIKI?

YOU CAN STILL KEEP IT.

JUST DRINK MY BLOOD.

THAT WAY, YOU'LL STILL BE ABLE TO KEEP YOUR PROMISE.

I WON'T DRINK YOUR BLOOD, SHIKI.

BUT I WON'T DO IT.

...THAT'S TRUE

IS THERE A REASON WHY YOU WON'T DRINK MY BLOOD?

WON'T MY BLOOD DO?

WHY...

...YUP.

SO I WON'T.

I LIKE YOU,

HER SMILE IS JUST TOO GORGEOUS.

I WANT TO STOP HER.

!

I WANT TO STOP HER.

I WANT TO STOP HER.

I WANT TO STOP HER.

BUT,

EVEN IF I HAVE TO KILL HER, I WANT TO STOP HER.

I WANT TO STOP HER.

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING UP TILL NOW.

WELL THEN, SHIKI.

MY THROAT TREMBLES, BUT NO SOUND COMES OUT.

EVEN SO, I HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE.

YOU DID KEEP YOUR PROMISE WITH ME, DIDN'T YOU ?

WHY ?

AM A LIAR.

.....

I...

I'M JUST A WORTH-LESS LIAR.

I SAID ...

I PROMISED ... THAT I WOULD GIVE YOU HAPPINESS ...

... NO,

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

FROM NOW ON, I'LL BE SLEEPING.

AND I'LL BE DREAMING OF THE TIME WE SPENT TOGETHER.

THE TIMES I SPENT WITH YOU ARE THE BEST TIMES I HAD IN MY LIFE.

AND THAT'S WHY I'LL BE DREAMING OF IT, FOREVER AND EVER.

THAT'S WHY. .I REALLY AM HAPPY.

BUT I'M SURE IT WILL BE VERY, VERY, FUN.

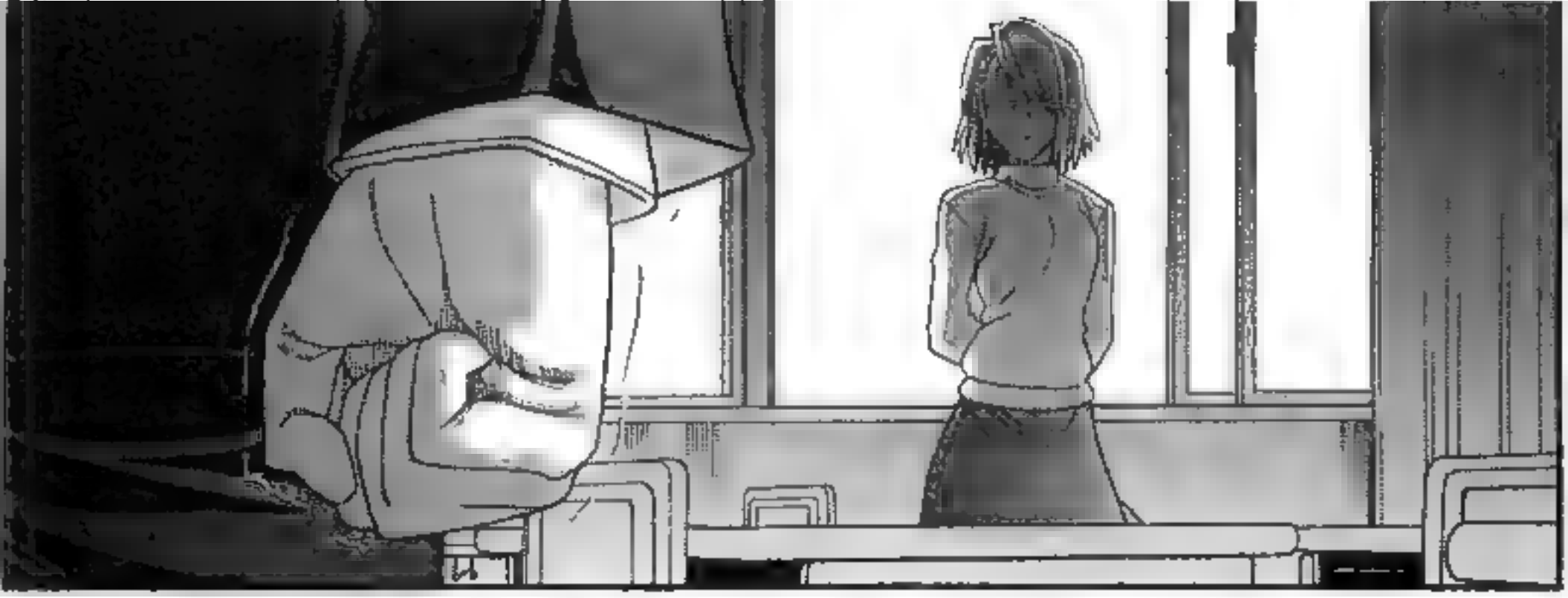
IT WON'T HAVE ANY MEANING.

SUCH A THING

.....

YOU DID BRING ME HAPPINESS, SHIKI.

SUCH A THING, I.



YUP
JUST AS I THOUGHT - IT'S A GOOD THING FOR ME TO COME SAY GOODBYE.
YOU'RE KIND, SHIKI.

YOUR HONESTY, HOW YOU ARE ALWAYS SPACED OUT, HOW I'M THE ONLY ONE YOU YELL AT -
I LOVE YOU, SHIKI
I LOVE EVERY ASPECT OF YOU.

FROM NOW ON,

...THAT'S WHY, I WANT YOU TO DO ME A FAVOR.

PLEASE GO THROUGH LIFE WITH A SMILE ON YOUR FACE.

BYE
BYE

WITH THOSE TWO
WORDS,

"BYE BYE",

AND A GENTLE
WAVE OF HER
HAND,

AS IF FADING
INTO THE
SUNSET,

SHE DISAPPEARED
BEFORE MY EYES.

...
RIGHT

YOU CERTAINLY DID KEEP IT.

THAT PROMISE……

IT'S JUST THAT OUR FAREWELL CAME EARLY

I'VE LOST SOMETHING. IF I THINK ABOUT IT, 'A FAREWELL' WAS ALWAYS THERE

IN THIS CLASS ROOM.

THE PROMISE TO MEET AGAIN IN THIS CLASSROOM AS THE SUN SET.' SHE CERTAINLY DID KEEP IT.

SHE'S STILL ALIVE...

WITH THAT IN MIND, THIS IS A REALLY SATISFYING GOODBYE.

THAT SHE'S... STILL... HAPPY.

AND SHE TOLD ME...

DAMN IT...

I JUST WANTED ...

TO BE WITH HER MORE.

THIS ENDING

IS NOT WHAT I'VE WISHED FOR!

THAT IS NOT WHAT I WANTED!

I WANTED

I WANTED TO SEE HER SMILE MORE.

I WANTED TO FEEL HER BODY'S WARMTH MORE.

I WANTED TO TALK TO HER MORE.

I WANTED TO MAKE HER HAPPY

NOT LIKE THIS, BUT ALWAYS

ALWAYS

AND SHE TOLD ME TO CONTINUE LIVING LIFE SMILING

BUT SHE WAS SMILING TILL THE VERY END.

THAT WAS...

HER FINAL WISH.

THERE IS NO WAY

I CAN LIVE LIFE THE WAY SHE WANTS ME TO!

THERE IS NO WAY

I CAN DO SOME-THING LIKE THAT!

BUT EVEN SO...

EVEN SO...

FOR HER TO BE ABLE TO SEE A HAPPY DREAM,

I WILL TRY...

TO GRANT HER WISH.

THAT IDIOTIC WOMAN ....

.....

SHIKI
!

BYE BYE.

REALIZE THAT NIGHT HAS COME.

THE DARK NIGHT SKY. THE SPIRAL WISPS OF CLOUDS, AND A BRIGHT, WHITE MOON.

THE CRIMSON SKY HAS BEEN PAINTED OVER WITH A DEEP, DARK BLUE.

OF AN EXTREAMELY BEAUTIFUL MEMORY.

THAT'S ALL THAT'S LEFT.

BUT I HAVE TO SAY WHAT I'VE FORGOTTEN TO EARLIER.

SHE MAY NO LONGER BE HERE,

SEE YOU...

ME TOO...I HAD...LOTS OF FUN AS WELL.

THE DISTANT BLUE MOON.

IT LOOKS AS IF IT WOULD SHATTER IF ONE SO MUCH AS TOUCHED IT.

ONLY THE GLASS-LIKE MOON HANGS IN THE NIGHT SKY.
ある

FOR A LONG TIME

UNTIL DAWN CAME,

I KEPT LOOKING UP AT IT.

UNTIL
DAWN
CAME

Blue Blue Glass Moon,
Under The Crimson Air.

Scarlet Moon Scans

RAW Twi
Translation Stifler
Cleaning Stifler
Typesetter Stifler
Proofreader Stifler

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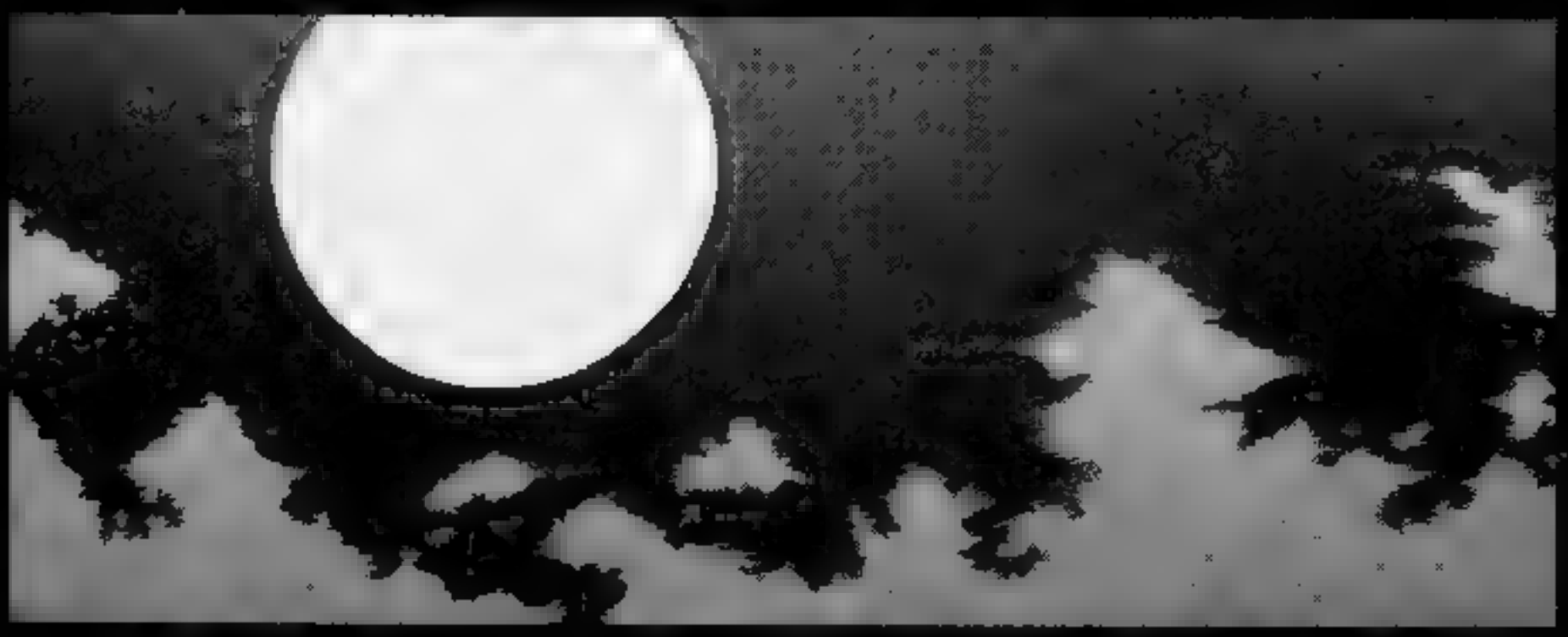
——————EVER AFTER.

SUDDENLY,
I OPEN MY
EYES.

A VAST NIGHT SKY.

IN THE MIDST OF A GRASSY FIELD THAT EXTENDS AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE, I STARE BLANKLY AT THE MOON.
THERE IS NO ONE ELSE HERE.
NO SIGNS OF HUMAN PRESENCE; NO SOUNDS FROM ANY ANIMALS.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'VE PUSHED MYSELF TOO HARD
THESE PAST FEW COUPLE OF DAYS.
I JUST WANTED TO LIE DOWN QUICKLY AND BE ALONE,
BUT IT SEEMS I FELL ASLEEP.



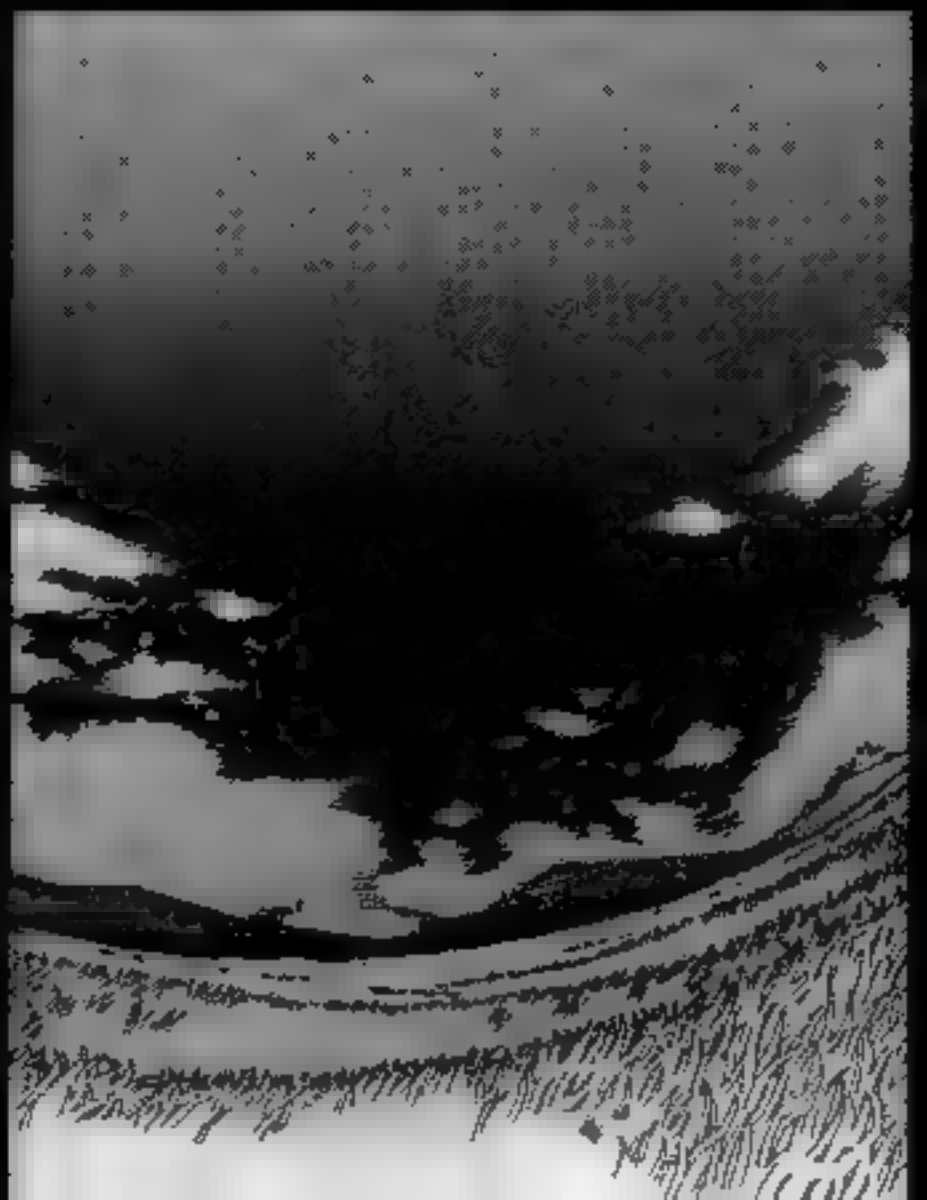
IT WAS A BRIGHT DARKNESS.
PROBABLY BECAUSE THE MOON IS HANGING SO LOW.
THE GRASSY FIELD THAT LOOKED LIKE A BLACK SEA LAST NIGHT IS BRIGHT, LIKE SOME SORT OF A STAGE.
A CLEARING ILLUMINATED BY SHARP, SHARP MOONLIGHT.

I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST LIKE A THEATER SOMEWHERE.

ONLY, THERE ARE NO CURTAINS AROUND.

THIS FIELD OF GRASS THAT SWEEPS FAR AND WIDE IS DEVOID OF ANY CURTAINS LIKE TREES, NOR IS THERE THE EXISTENCE OF AN AUDIENCE OR A STAGE CREW.

THERE'S ONLY THE THE MOONLIGHT AND THE WHITE DARKNESS.
THE WIND DOES NOT BLOW
AND THE GRASS DOES NOT EVEN SWAY.



——— HOW QUIET.

I LAUGH QUIETLY AS IT FEELS LIKE ALL THE COMMOTION UNTIL YESTERDAY WAS JUST A JOKE.

NO, IF YOU TALK ABOUT JOKES, THEN MY LIFE UNTIL NOW WAS SO HAPPY THAT, LOOKING BACK AT IT, IT SEEMS LIKE IT WAS JUST AN ILLUSION.

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED.

THERE WERE A LOT OF AMAZING THINGS THAT OCCURRED, AND THINKING BACK NOW, THESE WERE REALLY THE MOST DANGEROUS MOMENTS OF MY LIFE.

SOME THINGS IN THIS WORLD HAPPEN BECAUSE THEY WERE MEANT TO BE, WHILE OTHER THINGS IN THIS WORLD HAPPEN EVEN IF THEY WEREN'T. EVERYTHING FEELS LIKE AN ILLUSION, A FLEETING DREAM.

LOOKING BACK, IT SEEMS THAT NO MATTER HOW TRIVIAL THINGS SEEMED, ALL THOSE COINCIDENCES BUILT ON EACH OTHER.
THE DAYS WERE ONLY A REPETITION OF EACH OTHER, BUT NO TWO DAYS WERE QUITE THE SAME.

THEN, THAT MEANS...
PERHAPS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM WAS AN IRREPLEACABLE MOMENT THAT I CAN NEVER RETURN TO.

I RECALL MANY THINGS THAT HAPPENED. THE MEMORIES ARE SO NOSTALGIC THAT THEY MAKES ME SMILE.
JUST THE THOUGHT OF ALL THE NEW EXPERIENCES AWAITING ME IN THE FUTURE, DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF MY PAST, MAKES ME DIZZY.

HAPPINESS, EXCITEMENT, AND ENOUGH WORRIES TO GIVE ME A HEADACHE, IT'S TRULY A MIX OF EMOTIONS.

CARRIED AWAY BY THE MOMENT, MY HEART BEATS LOUDLY ONCE.

WHAT COMES AFTER IS MY USUAL ANEMIA. THE DIZZINESS CONTINUES FOR A WHILE, BUT IT EVENTUALLY DISAPPEARS.

EVEN THOUGH THE WOUND ON MY CHEST HEALED, MY ANEMIA DIDN'T GO AWAY.

IT SEEMS LIKE THAT ALONE WASN'T THE CAUSE FOR MY FRAGILE HEALTH.

...WELL, OF COURSE.

IT'S BECAUSE I AM ABLE TO PERCEIVE THE SHAPE OF DEATH,
THAT I PROBABLY STAND MUCH CLOSER TO IT THAN ANYONE ELSE.

TRUTH TO BE TOLD, I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT LIVING A LONG LIFE EITHER, UNLIKE ORDINARY PEOPLE.

THUMP, THE SOUND OF MY OWN HEART BEATING.

IT'S NOT LIKE ME TO THINK THIS WAY, BUT I DO WONDER JUST HOW LONG I CAN KEEP ON RUNNING THROUGH TIME LIKE THIS.

THE CONCLUSION IS RATHER UNINTERESTING.

BECAUSE, EVEN IF IT STOPS TOMORROW, OR IN A FEW DECADES

STILL

OI, I'M SAYING THAT IT'S DANGER-OUS FOR YOU, JUST LYING AROUND LIKE THAT.

HEY……

YOU HAVE AN AWFUL LOT OF FREE TIME ON YOUR HANDS, IF YOU CAN JUST SLEEP AROUND HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

I WAS THIS CLOSE TO KICKING YOU AND SENDING YOU FLYING, SO YOU BETTER WATCH YOURSELF OUT.

HEH HEH

BE KICKED AND SENT FLYING? AND BY WHO?

YOU AND I ARE THE ONLY ONES HERE, SO WHO ELSE DO YOU THINK THAT IT COULD IT BE, OTHER THAN ME?

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS, STUPID? DO YOU EVEN NEED TO THINK ABOUT THE ANSWER TO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

HA……

I DIDN'T THINK THAT TODAY WOULD BE THAT DAY.

EVEN THOUGH I SOMEHOW FELT THAT I'D BE MEETING YOU,

I CAN'T BE-LIEVE IT

SO I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS OUR FATE THIS TIME NOT TO MEET,

BUT, OH WELL —

DESPITE HAVING HEARD THAT YOU WERE HERE, WE NEVER ENDED UP MEETING EACH OTHER, DID WE?

WHAT A COINCIDENCE I DIDN'T EXPECT TO BUMP INTO YOU IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, EITHER.

I AM A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION, AFTER ALL. WE'RE NOT QUITE ON GOOD TERMS WITH THE CHURCH, NOW.

YEP

COMING TO LOOK FOR ME BEFORE, WAS IT BECAUSE OF THAT WHOLE THING?

SO I STOPPED BY HERE FOR A FINAL CHECK, AND I ALMOST ENDED UP KICKING SOME ORDINARY PERSON AND SEND THEM FLYING.

SEE

THE INCIDENT THIS TIME WAS PARTIALLY MY FAULT, YOU KNOW?

...THEN THAT IS TO SAY, WE WERE FATED TO MEET.

TO BE HONEST, I ALSO FELT THAT WE WOULD WIND UP MEETING AGAIN TODAY.

YOU'RE RIGHT. IF IT'S THAT SORT OF FATE, THEN I DEFINITELY WELCOME IT.

LONG TIME NO SEE.

YOU'VE GROWN UP, SHIKI.

YEAH

YOU SEEM TO BE DOING WELL TOO, SENSEI.

WE SIT IN THE FIELD OF GRASS AND BEGIN TO MAKE SMALL TALK.

WE TALK ABOUT SENSELESS THINGS, JUST LIKE THE OLD DAYS.

IT COULD BE ABOUT THINGS THAT HAVE ALREADY HAPPENED,
IT COULD ALSO BE ABOUT THINGS THAT HAVE YET TO HAPPEN.

WE JUST CHATTED, AS TIME PASSED US BY UNDER THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

IS THAT SO. THEN IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR ME, TOO-

ALRIGHT, IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR ME TO GO.

I'VE PLANNED TO LEAVE BEFORE DAWN, SO WE'LL HAVE TO PART HERE

AH!

OH, I SEE

DANG IT CAN'T BE HELPED. LOOKS LIKE NO SLEEP OR REST UNTIL LAST NIGHT HAS STARTED TO CATCH UP WITH ME.

...HEH

SHI-KI-?

YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU HAVE ANY INJURIES. IS YOUR BODY ALRIGHT?

THAT DIZZINESS JUST NOW IS YOUR BIGGEST WEAKNESS, HUH.

...HM. IF YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT, THEN I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT.

BUT UNLIKE SENSEI, I HAVE A NORMAL PERSON'S BODY.

YEAH, THANK YOU FOR YOUR CON-CERN.

SHIKI.

CAN YOU FEEL THAT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LAST FOR MUCH LONGER?

I DO KIND OF KNOW ABOUT IT ALREADY.

...EH, YEAH.

AS THINGS ARE NOW, YOUR CAREFREE ATTITUDE WILL JUST END UP BEING A HEAVIER BURDEN TO YOUR BODY.

I'M THINKING, ARE YOU REALLY NOT AFRAID OF DYING?

IS THAT SO? YOU STILL SEEM PRETTY CALM ABOUT IT.

I THINK I'M MORE AFRAID OF DEATH THAN MOST PEOPLE.

REAL LY, I...

NAH, NO WAY.

.....

BUT THAT'S SOMETHING IN THE FUTURE, SO I CAN'T THINK ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT NOW.

BECAUSE LIKE I'VE SAID, I AM LIVING IN THE PRESENT. THAT'S WHY I PRIORITIZE WHAT I WANT TO BE DOING NOW.

AH, SO YOU CAN SEE YOUR OWN DEATH TOO. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE MORE AFRAID OF DEATH THAN OTHERS.

NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT EITHER.

IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN CLEARLY SENSE WHEN I'M ABOUT TO DIE.

...THAT MAKES SENSE. EVEN FOR ME, I'D BE SHIVERING TOO IF I COULD SEE THE THIRTEEN STEPS TO THE GALLOWS.

IT'S THE SAME THING.

..SAY

CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING, FOR REFER-ENCE?

ISN'T THAT RIGHT? YOU CAN NO LONGER OBTAIN 'NORMAL' HAPPINESS LIKE EVERY-ONE ELSE.

IT WOULD ONLY BE NATURAL, TO CURSE IT AND FEAR FOR THE SPAN OF YOUR OWN LIFE.

YOU ENDED UP WITH A BODY THAT'S WEAKER THAN THOSE OF OTHERS.

AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THAT BODY OF YOURS, ALL THAT AWAITS YOU IS SUFFERING-

HEY SHIKI. DON'T YOU FIND IT PAINFUL AND HARD, LIVING LIFE WITH SUCH A BODY?

BUT I AM HAPPY. THAT, I'M SURE OF IT.

THAT MAY BE SO.

BECAUSE UP UNTIL NOW, EVERYTHING HAS BEEN A LOT OF FUN.

THAT'S WHY IT'LL PROBABLY KEEP ON BEING FUN IN THE FUTURE, TOO.

...AH, IS THAT SO.

TO BE HONEST, I DO FEEL SOME REGRET.

...SHIKI

THAT DAY, I FEEL LIKE I'VE SAID SOMETHING TO YOU THAT I SHOULDN'T HAVE.

THAT'S WHY IF YOU HAVE THAT POWER, SHIKI, THEN THERE DEFINITELY HAS TO BE SOME MEANING TO IT.

GOD DOESN'T GIVE ANYONE EXCESSIVE POWER WITHOUT REASON.

IT'S WHY IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ALRIGHT EVEN IF YOU DID NOTH-ING, SHIKI.

NO OTHER FACTOR OR POWER CAN INTERFERE, ESPECIALLY NOT SOMETHING AS AMBIGUOUS AS A GOD.

BUT YOU KNOW, IT'S UP TO THE INDIVIDUAL TO DECIDE WHAT THAT MEANING MAY BE.

THERE'S NO ROOM FOR ANYONE ELSE.

I AM REGRETTING MY WORDS, BECAUSE... YOU COULD HAVE LED A NORMAL LIFE THAT'S MORE SUITABLE FOR YOU.

YOU REALLY DID THAT, SHIKI.

BUT SOME-THING LIKE THAT IS REALLY DIFFICULT TO DO.

EVEN IF YOU DENIED THOSE EYES OF YOURS AND DID NOTHING, IT STILL WOULD HAVE BEEN ALRIGHT.

DIDN'T I TELL YOU BACK THEN THAT YOU SHOULD LIVE YOUR LIFE WITH AN HONEST HEART?

...ISN'T IT IRONIC THAT A KILLER MORE SKILLED AT THAT THAN ANYONE ELSE ALSO HATES KILLING MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE?

IF YOU LIVED A NORMAL LIFE, OR ALLOWED YOUR HEART TO DEVIATE A BIT FROM THE TRUE PATH, THEN YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO GO THROUGH SO MUCH PAIN.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH EASIER FOR YOU IF YOU WENT ASTRAY A LITTLE, BECAUSE YOUR EYES DRAW YOU TO DISASTER.

TO START OUT WITH, I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT AS PARTICU-LARLY PAINFUL.

BUT THAT HAS NO MEANING.

THAT MAY BE TRUE. NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH SIMPLER IF I TOOK IT EASY AND GAVE UP.

.....

YEAH.

I JUST LIKE MYSELF THE WAY I AM.

EVERY-THING I DID, I DID IT BECAUSE I WANTED TO. IT'S NOT LIKE I'M A SAINT OR ANYTHING.

YOU HAVE THE WRONG IDEA, SENSEI.

-MUZMS....

-WHEN SENSEI TOLD ME THAT I COULD KEEP ON LIVING LIKE THIS, I WAS TRULY REALLY HAPPY.

THAT IS WHY.....

I DON'T REGRET ANYTHING AT ALL,

SO THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO REGRET ANYTHING, EITHER.

...AH, I SEE

HA HA...

.....HA

I REALLY GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU...

YOU'VE REALLY GROWN UP TO BE A GOOD PERSON.

SO SOME-ONE LIKE YOU WOULD BALANCE THINGS OUT.

YEAH. YOU'RE FINE JUST THE WAY YOU ARE, SHKI.

.....

THIS WORLD IS FULL OF DEVIOUS PEOPLE,

BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND, THEN I GUESS THAT IT'S ALRIGHT.

IT MAY END UP BEING PRETTY HARSH ON YOU,

——— WITH A "SEE YA", SENSEI TURNS HER BACK TO ME.

I CAN'T STOP HER, AND THERE'S NO REASON TO.
I CAN FEEL THAT THIS REALLY IS THE LAST TIME.

...NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THERE IS ONE THING I FORGOT TO SAY.

THAT DAY.
IN AN OCEAN OF GRASS.

FACING A VERY IMPORTANT FRIEND WHO HAD SPOKEN WITH ME, WHO WAS ABOUT TO DISAPPEAR.

SHE TOLD ME
"ALL I'M SAYING IS LIVE TRUE TO YOURSELF, AND BECOME A MAN IN THE WAY THAT YOU THINK IS RIGHT."

SHE ALSO TAUGHT ME THAT I HAD TO ACCEPT MY MISTAKES, THE MEANING OF "I'M SORRY", AND HOW IMPORTANT THAT PHRASE IS.

THAT'S WHY——

I NEED TO TELL HER.

SENSEI...

IT'S JUST THAT IF I SAY THESE WORDS, I REALLY WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE HER EVER AGAIN.

——EVEN SO, I *MUST* SAY IT.

HM?

THIS IS THE RIGHT TIME.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I'M GLAD I MET YOU, SENSEI.

THESE WORDS THAT I COULDN'T SAY BEFORE AS A CHILD, BECAUSE I WAS FILLED WITH THE SADNESS OF PARTING.

THAT IS HOW I, TOHNO SHIKI, HAVE ALWAYS FELT, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

SHE STOPS THERE, LOWERS HER HEAD, AND TURNS TOWARD ME WITH HER USUAL EXPRESSION.

TAKE CARE, SHIKI.

LET'S MEET AGAIN, IF WE'RE FATED TO DO SO.

SHE SAYS THIS AS IF IT WAS NOTHING, AND THE WIND SUDDENLY GUSTS.

IT RUSTLES THROUGH THE SWAYING GRASS, AND THE MOONLIGHT VANISHES.

AFTER THAT,
AS IF ABDUCTED BY THE WIND,
HER SILHOUETTE DISAPPEARS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.

I EXHALE.

LOOKS LIKE FOR THE TIME BEING,
MY HEART WON'T LET ME STAND UP.

"HEY SHIKI. DON'T YOU FIND IT PAINFUL AND HARD, LIVING LIFE WITH SUCH A BODY?"

"ISN'T THAT RIGHT? YOU CAN NO LONGER OBTAIN 'NORMAL' HAPPINESS LIKE EVERYONE ELSE. AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THAT BODY OF YOURS, ALL THAT AWAITS YOU IS SUFFERING."

IT'LL BE FINE, SENSEI.

I ASK OF YOU AGAIN. DO YOU TRULY WISH TO GO?

...WHAT IS THIS.

AHH... I REALLY AM JUST FAR TOO KIND FOR MY OWN GOOD.

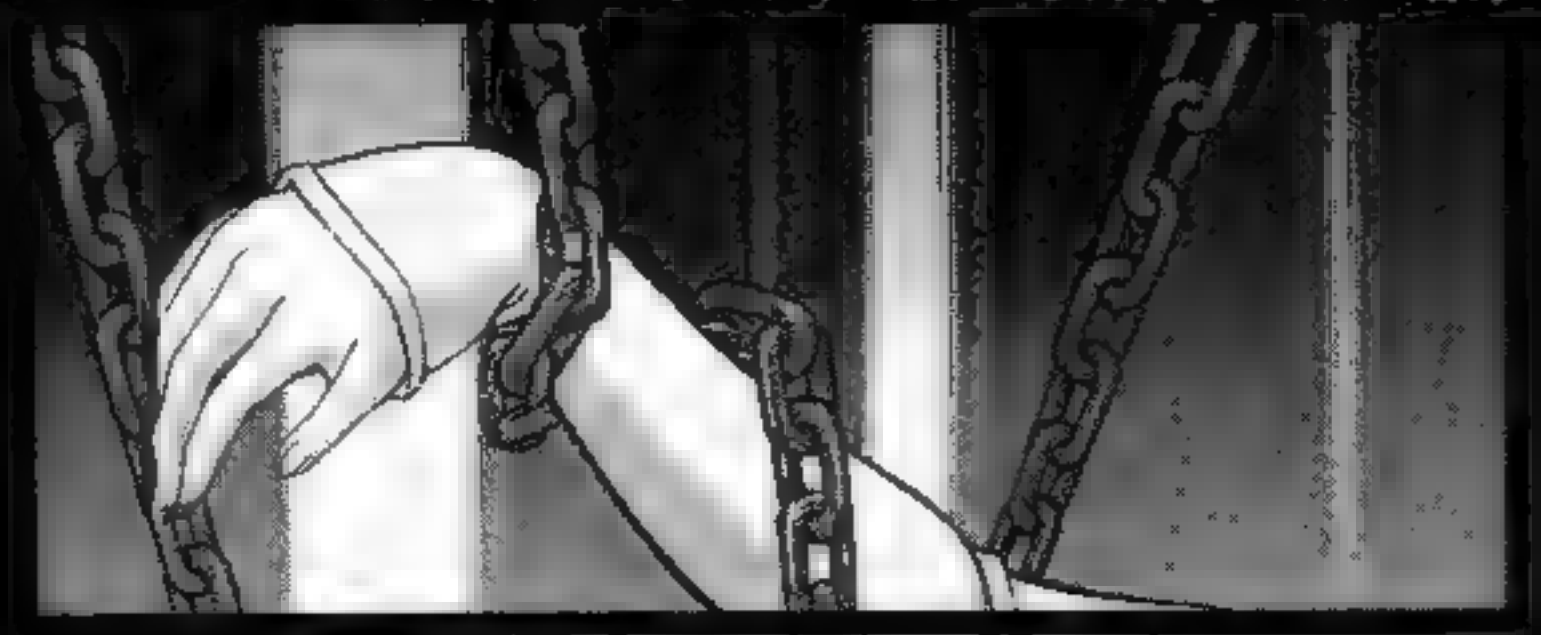
It was meant to be forgotten in the future, so it has already been forgotten in the past.

"For a life like yours, to open both your eyes and catch a single glimpse of light would already be ample satisfaction."

—The elderly man clothed in black said with a gentle smile.

I am no longer capable of opening my eyes.

I am trapped by these unbreakable chains in eternal slumber.



In this unmoving cradle, suspended by time ——

I continue to dream about many, many things by myself.

Things that I remember, that I've forgotten, that I hoped for, or that I've never thought about. Everything resurfaces and sinks down, perishing like bubbles.

In this dream, I accept it all without struggle.

—— My wishes and my regrets...

...What if, back then.

Say that I drank his blood, how would things be now?

What if, I could keep on suppressing my bloodlust.

Would I have been able to stay at that place...

—What if...

What if back then, I was to take hold of his hand——

—Say that I really won't be able to take one more step away from here...

...But that's still all good enough.

It's because I've already been saved by him.

It's because I've already obtained unforgettable, priceless things from him.

Or maybe it's because I can think back to everything about him——

SHIKI

...YOU TROU-BLESOME PERSON.

GOOD MORNING, ARCHEID.

...WHAT IS... GOING ON?

...

...
HUH
?

...Ok.

I BROKE A LOT OF THINGS ON MY WAY IN...
I HAVE TO APOLO-GIZE FIRST.

ABOUT THAT... SORRY.
I'M REALLY SORRY.

I DO GET THA ALL THE EN-TRANCES HAD TO BE SHUT...

E-EVEN THOUGH ...

ALL THE OTHER DOORS I FOUND WERE EITHER LOCKED OR SEALED OFF!

BUT ISN'T BARRI-CADING THE MAIN GATE GOING WAY OVER-BOARD!

EVEN ALL THE STAIRS WERE BLOCKED OFF HALFWAY UP!

AND THOSE DAMNED CHAINS WERE EVERY-WHERE I WENT!!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HOW MUCH EFFORT IT TOOK AND HOW HARD IT WAS TO GET HERE!?

...
SHIKI,

WHY ARE YOU ...

FOR WAYS TO GET TO YOU, AND BE WITH YOU AGAIN SOMEHOW.

EH, I'VE BEEN GOING AROUND TOO, AND I HEARD ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS.

HAVEN'T WE ALREADY PROMISED EACH OTHER?

YOU SAID IT BEFORE, RIGHT? THAT YOU'LL MAKE ME TAKE RESPONSIBILITY --

--FOR KILLING YOU.

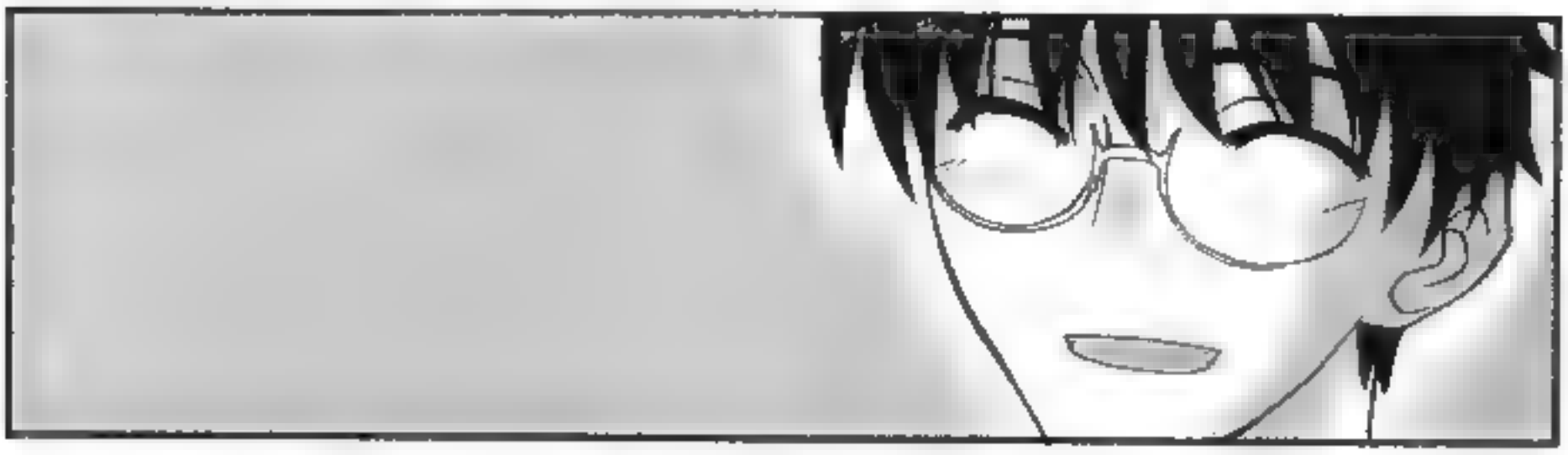
BUT THE TRUTH IS,

I JUST REALLY ENJOYED SPENDING TIME WITH YOU.

... THAT IS WHY.

LET'S LIVE ON TOGE-THER,

ARCHEID.



SHIKI!

IT'LL BE FINE, SENSEI.

OKAY.....

IT DOESN'T MATTER, EVEN IF I KNOW THAT THERE IS AN END--

I BETTER START TO GET GOING, TOO...

EVEN IF THAT REACHED A CONCLUSION, IT WOULD STILL BE A HAPPY ONE.

OUR MEMORIES WILL LIVE ON.

SO SENSEI, THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO WORRY.

BECAUSE I

BECAUSE
WE WILL,
TOGETHER

WE'RE HAPPY TO BE ALIVE.

THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.

Scans: FLYLUO.com (Chinese RAWs)

Translation: angrypokstick, Kurai D, Romsus

Cleaning: Kurai D

Typesetting: Kurai D

Coordinated on Beast's Lair

Here is the end! Enjoy EVER AFTER, everyone, and have a good year. :)